

From: Joan Schafer/R3/USEPA/US
Sent: 3/15/2012 3:24:13 PM
To: Ron Borsellino/R3/USEPA/US@EPA; Kathy Hodgkiss/R3/USEPA/US@EPA; Dennis Carney/R3/USEPA/US@EPA; Helen Duteau/R3/USEPA/US@EPA; Walter Wilkie/R3/USEPA/US@EPA; Cecil Rodrigues/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
CC:
Subject: Fw: Media Inquiry on Dimock from Scranton Times-Tribune

Final desk statement below...joan

----- Forwarded by Joan Schafer/R3/USEPA/US on 03/15/2012 03:23 PM -----

From: Betsaida Alcantara/DC/USEPA/US
To: Betsaida Alcantara/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Roy Seneca/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Cc: Joan Schafer/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Terri-A White/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, "Shawn Garvin" <Garvin.Shawn@epamail.epa.gov>
Date: 03/15/2012 03:13 PM
Subject: Re: Media Inquiry on Dimock from Scranton Times-Tribune

Final statement, minor change on the arsenic sentence below. Feel free to share. Apologies for delay.

On Jan. 19, as a result of requests from residents and a review of the data we had in hand, EPA announced it would perform water sampling at approximately 60 homes in the Carter Road/Meshoppen Creek Road area of Dimock, Pa. to further assess whether any residents are being exposed to hazardous substances that cause health concerns.

The first round of sampling results is now available for the first 11 homes that were tested during the week of Jan. 23. Sampling results from these 11 homes did not show levels of contamination that could present a health concern. Samples from six of the 11 homes did show concentrations of sodium, methane, chromium or bacteria, but concentrations were all within the safe range for drinking water. The sampling results also identified the presence of arsenic at two homes.

Out of the 11 homes tested, there are currently three homes receiving an alternate water supply provided by EPA. EPA will continue to provide water to these homes while we perform additional sampling to ensure that the drinking water quality at these homes remains consistent and acceptable for use over time. EPA is also taking a second round of samples from the two homes where arsenic was detected, and although the levels are below drinking water standards, we will resample to better characterize the water quality of these wells. After receiving results from the second round of sampling, EPA will re-evaluate the need to continue providing an alternate water source.

EPA has offered to meet with all the residents to go over their data and answer any health-related concerns. As further quality assured data becomes available for the remaining homes, we will share with the homeowners in an expedited manner. Our actions will continue to be based on the science and the law as we work to help get a clear picture of water quality for these homes in Dimock.

----- Original Message -----

From: Betsaida Alcantara
Sent: 03/15/2012 12:49 PM EDT
To: Roy Seneca
Cc: Joan Schafer; Terri-A White
Subject: Re: Media Inquiry on Dimock from Scranton Times-Tribune
pls hold just one second. sorry